

Salute to Veterans which has been presented for the past five years by Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon and the Phoenix Military Veterans Commission. The Salute this year on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, will focus on women veterans. This is appropriate given the rising numbers of women now serving in the armed forces and their wide-ranging and significant contributions to our nation's military efforts.

Women have served honorably in every war and conflict in American history. Many paid the ultimate price in defense of our nation. We all know the story of Army PFC Lori Piestewa, an Arizona native who became the first servicewoman to be killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the first Native American servicewoman to ever die in battle. In 2005, Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester of the Kentucky Army National Guard became the first woman to be awarded the Silver Star for close-quarters combat action for her role in turning back an ambush on her convoy in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, I want to focus special attention on seven veterans from Arizona who are being recognized today as living reminders of the honorable service that women in the armed forces have provided in overseas war zones from World War II to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Please join me in recognizing:

Bettie Lerdall, U.S. Marine Corps, World War II;

Grace Kokesch, U.S. Army, World War II;
Louise Glende, U.S. Navy, Korean War;
Carol Culbertson, U.S. Navy, Vietnam War;
Belinda Blase, U.S. Air Force, Operation Desert Storm;

First Lieutenant Kara C. Larson, Arizona Army National Guard, Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Sgt. Rachel L. Trotter, Arizona Army National Guard, Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Please join me in recognizing the service of these distinguished veterans on this special day.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CARROLLTON CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the Carrollton Church of the Nazarene in Carrollton, Texas. Since its inception, the church has stood in the community as a symbol of perseverance and inspiration. This historic anniversary of the Carrollton Church of the Nazarene marks a time of remembrance of a storied past and renewal for a bright future.

On April 6, 1958, a group of twelve founded the Valwood Church of the Nazarene in what would later evolve into the Carrollton Church of the Nazarene. At the time, all adults of the church became founding members. The first pastor was Rev. Monroe Burkhardt and the song leader was Mrs. Jo Ann Marchant. Charter members included Rev. and Mrs. R.A. Holloway, Glen and Mary; Rev. and Mrs. M.S. Burkhardt and Elson; Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Marchant; Mr. and Mrs. S.E. Marchant, Jr. and Mrs. Irene Cardwell.

The founding members initially congregated at a building commonly referred to as the

"rabbit hutch" on Harry Hines Boulevard. Over the coming years, the church relocated several times to worship at various locations including Carrollton City Hall, a store in downtown Carrollton, the Carrollton Community Center, individual homes, the basement of Valwood Parkway Baptist Church, local schools, a unit building on Dove Creek and Kelly Boulevard, and finally at Hebron Parkway. While the church has worshiped in many locations, its positive message has always remained the same.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding the Carrollton Church of the Nazarene as it celebrates 50 years of dedicated fellowship. Clergy and members of the past and present are to be commended for their service to the church and greater community. It is my hope the Carrollton Church of the Nazarene continues to stand as beacon of resolve, inspiration, and worship for many years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDMUNDO ESCOBEDO, SR.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Edmundo "Eddie" Escobedo, Sr., who is being honored by the Clark County School District with the naming of the Edmundo "Eddie" Escobedo, Sr. Middle School.

Mr. Escobedo was born in Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico before coming to the United States. He enlisted and served in the United States Air Force, where upon completion of his military duties he settled in Las Vegas. In 1970, Mr. Escobedo began promoting live Mexican dances and popular musical groups. In 1972, he opened the only Spanish movie theater within the Las Vegas community, called the "El Rancho". He also served several terms as the president of the National Spanish Pictures Exhibitors Association. For more than 20 years, Mr. Escobedo published "El Mundo", a Spanish-language weekly newspaper serving Nevada's large and rapidly-growing Hispanic population. He currently serves as Chairman of the Board of KDOX 1280 AM, a Spanish-language local radio station.

He has served as founder, vice president, and president of the National Association of Hispanic Publications from 1997 to 2000. In 2002, Mr. Escobedo was named "Hispanic of the Year" by the Latin Chamber of Commerce and was included as number 23 of the list of "25 Most Influential Persons" in the city by "Las Vegas Life" magazine. In January 2003, he also became a member of the Board of Directors of Sunrise Hospital.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Edmundo "Eddie" Escobedo, Sr. I would like to congratulate Eddie and his family, including his wife of over 43 years, Maria, his four children, and his nine grandchildren. I applaud Eddie on his leadership and congratulate him on this much deserved recognition of having a middle school named in his honor by the Clark County School District.

MR. JESSE J. MORANDO

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and gratitude that I stand before you today to recognize one of Northwest Indiana's most dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizens, Mr. Jesse J. Morando, 2007–2008 State Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Department of Indiana. A lifelong resident of Northwest Indiana, Jesse is one of the most passionate and involved citizens that I have ever known, especially when it comes to his service to our veterans. To honor Jesse for his constant efforts to better the quality of life for Indiana's veterans, a testimonial dinner will be held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 802 Hall in Hammond, Indiana, on Sunday, April 13, 2008.

Jesse James Morando was born in East Chicago, Indiana, the fourth of ten children. After relocating to Whiting, Indiana, in 1958, Jesse attended Immaculate Conception for grade school. Jesse's involvement in community activities began at an early age, when he excelled as a member of the Boy Scouts of America, eventually reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. Recognized as one of Whiting's young leaders, Jesse was even appointed "Mayor for a Day." As a high school student at Whiting High School, Jesse excelled in athletics, participating on both the football and wrestling teams.

Following his graduation from Whiting High School, Jesse joined the United States Marine Corps and served a tour of duty in Vietnam. After receiving his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps in 1973, Jesse returned to Northwest Indiana and accepted a position at the Amoco, now BP, refinery in Whiting, where he has 27 years of service and has completed an apprentice program in pipe fitting and welding. Jesse's service, however, to veterans and to the Northwest Indiana community has remained a constant throughout his lifetime.

While he is well-known as the State Commander of the VFW, Jesse has also been involved in numerous other veterans' and service organizations in Northwest Indiana. Jesse is a life member of the American Legion Post 80 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2724 in Whiting, and also a member of the 40/8 Voiture 470 First District of Indiana, the AMVETS Post 64 in Whiting, the Indiana Freemasons, and the Mixtecas Motorcycle Group. Additionally, he is a life member of the VFW National Home.

Early on, Jesse learned that the best way to improve his community and to help people was to get involved. In many different roles, Jesse has remained true to one goal, to make a difference in society. From his service to veterans to his involvement in programs geared toward helping those in need, be it physically or financially, Jesse has always been a driving force in bettering the lives of many people. While it is impossible to list all of the ways in which Jesse has served his community, to name a few, Jesse has been a coach for the Challenger baseball team, where he assisted with obtaining funds to pay for the Field of Dreams in Hammond, Indiana. This outstanding program was aimed at affording physically challenged children the opportunity